

In the Claims

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A piece of baggage, the piece of baggage comprising:

a baggage portion having an internal compartment;

a towing handle;

a single-pole arm having a distal end and a proximal end with a length therebetween, said arm operatively connected to said piece of baggage at said proximal end, said arm ~~portion~~ being movable between extended and retracted positions such that the distal end ~~towing handle~~ is closer to the piece of baggage when the arm is in the retracted position than when the arm is in the extended position;

a pivot mechanism pivotally connecting the towing handle to said distal end of said arm such ~~in a manner that allows the towing handle to be pivoted~~ generally about and relative to said distal end of said arm; and

a locking mechanism connected to said pivot mechanism and said arm, said locking mechanism being selectively moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position ~~relative to said arm when said arm is in said extended positions~~;

wherein said locking mechanism ~~prevents~~ ~~operates to limit the~~ prevents pivoting of said towing handle relative to ~~about~~ said distal end of said arm when in said locked position and ~~does not so limit the~~ permits pivoting of said towing handle ~~about~~ relative to said distal end of said arm when in said unlocked position.

9. (Currently Amended) The piece of luggage claim 8, wherein~~[[÷]]~~ said piece of luggage further comprises:

a release button, said release button being configured and adapted to move said locking mechanism from said locked position to said unlocked position when said release button is pressed.

10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage of claim ~~10~~, ~~wherein: said 8~~, wherein said towing handle has a hand grip portion containing a release button facing upward from is provided on said towing handle.

12. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage of claim 9, wherein~~[[÷]]~~ said release button is provided on said towing handle.

13. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage claim 8, wherein~~[[÷]]~~ said pivot mechanism allows said towing handle to rotate at least 360 degrees relative to said distal end of said arm.

14. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein~~[[÷]]~~ said towing handle is T-shaped and has an elongated hand grip with opposite ends and a stem that intersects and projects from the hand grip intermediate said hand grip opposite ends, and a center-axis of said single-pole arm is generally co-linear to an axis passing through said stem and generally perpendicular to said hand grip.

15. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage of claim ~~8~~14 further comprising:
at least two wheels mounted to the baggage portion for rotation about a wheel axis
relative to the baggage portion;
~~wherein said center axis is generally perpendicular to said wheel axis.~~

16. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8 wherein said motion between said extended and said retracted positions is telescoping motion.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said baggage portion comprises a receptacle, said towing handle being retracted into said receptacle when said arm is in said retracted position.

22. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said baggage portion comprises a receptacle, said towing handle having an outer surface that lies flush with an exterior surface of said baggage portion when said towing handle is in said retracted position.

23. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, further comprising a release mechanism connected to said locking mechanism, said release mechanism being manually operated by a user to unlock said locking mechanism.

24. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said towing handle pivots relative to said distal end of said arm about at least one axis of rotation.

25. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said arm extends along a first axis about which said towing handle pivots.

26. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said towing handle is repositionable relative to said arm when said arm is in said retracted position.
27. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said arm is curved along at least a portion of said length.
28. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said arm has one of an elliptical and oval cross-section.
29. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said towing handle is T-shaped and has a stem portion extending from a cross-bar, said locking mechanism being joined to said stem portion.
30. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said baggage portion comprises a receptacle and said towing handle is T-shaped and has a stem portion extending from a cross-bar, said locking mechanism being joined to said stem portion, said crossbar including a release button aligned with said stem portion.
31. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said locking mechanism includes locking protrusions that form a channel there between and a locking member that is releasably fit within said channel to prevent and permit pivotal motion between said arm and said towing handle.
32. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein said baggage portion includes a receptacle that receives said towing handle when in a retracted position, said towing handle including a release button that is accessible within said receptacle when said towing handle is retracted into said receptacle.

33. (New) A piece of baggage, comprising:

a baggage portion having an internal compartment;

a single-pole telescoping arm joined to said baggage portion and having a distal end and a proximal end, said arm being movable between extended and retracted positions relative to said baggage portion;

a towing handle pivotally connected to said distal end of said arm, said towing handle pivoting about and relative to said distal end of said arm; and

a locking mechanism connected to said arm and said towing handle, said locking mechanism being selectively moveable between locked and unlocked positions to prevent and permit, respectively, pivotal motion between said arm and said towing handle.

34. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said baggage portion comprises a receptacle, said towing handle being retracted into said receptacle when said arm is in said retracted position.

35. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said baggage portion comprises a receptacle, said towing handle having an outer surface that lies flush with an exterior surface of said baggage portion when said towing handle is in said retracted position.

36. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, further comprising a release mechanism connected to said locking mechanism, said release mechanism being manually operated by a user to unlock said locking mechanism.

37. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said towing handle pivots relative to said distal end of said arm about at least one axis of rotation.
38. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said arm extends along a first axis about which said towing handle pivots.
39. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said towing handle is repositionable relative to said arm when said arm is in said retracted position.
40. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said arm is curved along at least a portion of said length.
41. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said arm has one of an elliptical and oval cross-section.
42. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said towing handle is T-shaped and has a stem portion extending from a cross-bar, said locking mechanism being joined to said stem portion.
43. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said baggage portion comprises a receptacle, wherein said towing handle is T-shaped and has a stem portion extending from a cross-bar, said locking mechanism being joined to said stem portion, said crossbar including a release button aligned with said stem portion.
44. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said locking mechanism includes locking protrusions that form a channel there between and a locking member that is releasable fit within said channel to prevent and permit pivotal motion between said arm and said towing handle.

45. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 33, wherein said baggage portion includes a receptacle that receives said towing handle when in a retracted position, said towing handle including a release button that is accessible within said receptacle when said towing handle is retracted into said receptacle.

46. (New) A piece of baggage, comprising:

a baggage portion having an internal compartment;

at least one arm joined to said baggage portion and having a distal end and a proximal end, said arm being movable between extended and retracted positions relative to said baggage portion;

a towing handle pivotally connected to said distal end of said arm, said towing handle pivoting about and relative to said distal end of said arm;

a locking mechanism connected to said arm and said towing handle, said locking mechanism being selectively moveable between locked and unlocked positions to prevent and permit, respectively, pivotal motion between said arm and said towing handle, wherein said baggage portion includes a receptacle that receives said towing handle when in a retracted position, said towing handle including a release button that is accessible when said towing handle is retracted with said receptacle.